

Home-Democrat.
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

County Matters.

On Monday and Tuesday last, the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting—present, T. L. Vail, chairman, and J. R. Morris, Thomas Grier, S. H. Hilton and H. K. Reid.

The usual amount of claims against the county were audited and ordered paid.

Several persons were exempted from the payment of a capitation tax on account of poverty and physical infirmity; and Jesse Coley was authorized to peddle without paying the usual tax, in consequence of poverty and infirmity.

The Sheriff was ordered to summon a Jury to lay out two roads in Providence township—lat. From the Union county line, near Archie Porter's, running the old Monroe road, intersecting the public road near Mrs. Knox's, about one and a half miles. 2d. From Samuel R. Grier's, on the Providence road, to Mrs. E. C. Grier's, on the public road to Matthews, about one and a half miles.

The Sheriff was allowed \$54.20 for feeding prisoners in Jail during the month of June.

The report of the Jury summoned to lay out a public road from Six-mile Creek, on the Union county line, to the Lancaster and Charlotte road, near Harrison's church, was confirmed.

T. R. Robertson, Clerk of Criminal Court, was allowed \$149.89, fees due witnesses for attendance at June term of said Court.

On Tuesday, the main business transacted by the Board was the drawing of Jurors to serve at the ensuing terms of the Criminal and Superior Courts. The following persons were drawn to serve as Jurors at the Superior Court term, beginning the last Monday in August:

First Week.—K. S. Finch, W. H. Patterson, A. C. Fisher, J. L. Alexander, C. N. Brown, W. P. Williams, R. F. Auten, W. M. Stitt, R. B. Morrow, J. A. Houston, W. E. Shaw, D. Blume, T. J. Wilson, J. W. Ewart, J. S. Cashion, J. W. S. Todd, T. P. Alexander, and S. D. Eaker. Second Week.—J. Brown Grier, H. W. Bates, J. H. Bennett, W. F. Boyd, J. R. Hunter, J. A. Solomon, C. A. Rigler, C. B. Todd, W. H. Scholander, A. L. Smith, L. Berward, and R. G. Kendrick. Third Week.—J. E. Henderson, R. B. Trotter, A. J. Abernathy, T. W. Neely, I. A. DeArmond, J. L. Hamsey, J. L. Walker, B. Kizer, O. O. Mercer, A. H. Rhyne, S. E. Griffith and J. Frank Neely.

And the following are the Jurors for the Criminal Court for the second Monday in August: Messrs. A. E. Rankin, A. C. Russell, W. W. Reid, J. D. Watts, M. E. Beaver, Eugene Cogbill, J. R. Henderson, No. Nicholas, S. W. Crowell, H. D. Duckworth, D. A. Johnson, J. M. Holbrook, M. S. Edwards, J. F. Orr, J. M. Cook, W. F. Baker, S. W. Davis, J. W. Wadsworth, J. H. Weddington, J. A. Kell, J. M. Goodrum, A. J. Shannon, T. N. Alexander, O. D. Squires, W. Baker, J. L. McRae, R. P. Brown, C. A. Griffith, J. W. Adams, V. H. Cates, Edward Hooper, W. S. Flenkinn, R. A. P. Merritt, W. B. Bailey, W. L. Ewart and J. R. Hood.

The Board will meet next Monday to revise the tax lists, and to hear complaints in regard to excessive valuation. Persons who have failed to return had better present themselves at that time, otherwise they will have to pay a double tax.

In connection with the meeting of the Commissioners on Monday, the Assessors and List Takers of the several townships met as follows: Charlotte, D. G. Maxwell; Berryhill, L. M. McAllister; Steel Creek, J. W. Reid; Pineville, J. W. Barnett; Providence, W. E. Arday; Morning Star, J. W. Hood; Clear Creek, C. P. Munro; Crab Orchard, S. H. Farrow; Mallard Creek, R. L. DeArmond; Dewese, J. Lee Sloan; Lemley's, J. L. Jettin; Long Creek, J. W. Sample; Paw Creek, D. A. McCord; Huntersville, R. A. Torrence.

On motion, L. M. McAllister was chosen Secretary of the Board. After organization, it was learned that a number of members of the Board had not made any investigation of the business before them, and an adjournment was had until the afternoon. The first township called was Charlotte, and the Chairman stated that owing to the large amount of work to be done, and the time allowed, he was not ready to report. He was given until next Monday in which to make his report to the Board. It was stated, however, that the average valuation of land in Charlotte township would be something less than last year (\$16 per acre), while the personal property valuation will be about the same. The average valuation of land in Steel Creek is \$7 per acre; Providence was rated at \$6.25 and raised by the Board 10 per cent; while in Paw Creek and Lemley's, the average valuation was slightly reduced by the Board. In all other townships the valuation was increased varying from five to fifteen per cent, making the general average outside Charlotte township about \$7 per acre. The assessment of personal property in the county was left as returned by the list takers.

The Cotton Crop—Encouraging Report.
MEMPHIS, July 4.—The regular monthly cotton crop of the Memphis district, which embraces western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, northern Arkansas and northern Alabama, published today by Hill, Fontaine & Co., says:

"The weather during June has been favorable to cotton. Rain, which was needed in many localities, has fallen in copious showers throughout the district within the past four days, which has been of material benefit to both cotton and corn. Our 812 correspondents, as a rule, report good stands with the plant forming and blooming well. The condition of the crop is not only more favorable than last year, but on an average, fully two weeks earlier. This is a most promising outlook for cotton. Corn, however, in many sections has suffered from the drought, but the indications are that a full average crop will be raised, more than will be needed for use within the district and considerably more than the crop of last year."

A straight line can be drawn through seventy-five miles of the Indian River, Florida, without touching shore. It is called the straightest river in the world."

North Carolina Crops.

RALEIGH, July 2.—The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture has prepared the crop report for June. So far as tabulated it shows unprecedented crops. As Commissioner Robinson says, it is a year of plenty. All the crops growing finely. Rain is somewhat needed in the Duplin section. Dr. Dabney, State Chemist, made the remark that if no more rain fell from this time until September last there would be a larger crop of cotton than the last year.

Reports of damage by the chinch-bug are most numerous in the Pee Dee section along the border of the State, but the farmers are using the remedy with good effect. This remedy, the kerosene emulsion, slays the bugs every time, and Col. Robinson says the farmers are using it freely. The Department has issued two special bulletins on this subject, which is attracting so much attention. The fact is that the bulk of the corn crop was threatened with destruction, and some is even now in danger.

Replies in regard to inquiries as to the supply of labor, show that it is rather more abundant and efficient in the section west of the Blue Ridge. Very few complaints come from the eastern counties, but the bulk comes from the Piedmont section, or rather the belt from Johnston county to Iredell, the cotton belt. But the labor here will probably be sufficient to handle even so great a crop.

A remarkable development of strawberry culture is reported to the Department. The Messrs Westbrook of Faison's have introduced a berry, to which they have given their name, and it proves to be the most popular ever sold North. At Smithfield, in Johnston county, the berry-growers succeeded in selling berries from one bed for six weeks continuously.

The Nation's Debt.

Statement showing the Condition of the Treasury.

The following is a recapitulation of the National Debt on June 30, 1887:

Interest bearing debt:	
Bonds, 4 1/2 per cent.	\$250,000,000.00
4 per cent.	737,800,000.00
3 per cent.	17,216,500.00
Refunding certificates, 4 per cent.	170,250.00
Navy pension fund, 3 per cent.	14,000,000.00
Pacific railroad bonds, 6 per cent.	64,683,513.00
Principal.	1,063,513,880.00
Interest.	12,351,603.00
Total.	\$1,098,067,483.00
Debt which interest has ceased to pay:	
Notes, maturity of principal.	6,115,165.25
Interest.	190,738.87
Total.	\$6,305,904.12
Debt bearing no interest:	
Old demand and legal tender notes.	\$344,738,146.00
Certificates of deposit.	8,770,000.00
Gold certificates.	91,225,437.00
Silver certificates.	142,118,017.00
Fractional currency (less amount estimated as lost or destroyed).	6,940,964.00
Principal.	595,798,564.00
Interest, principal.	1,682,220.51
Interest.	12,942,357.00
Total.	\$1,770,771,948.00
Total debt less cash items available for its redemption.	\$1,380,282,106.00
Total cash in Treasury.	459,439,917.21
Decrease of debt during the month of June, 1887.	16,852,726.17
June 30, 1886.	109,707,646.38
Total receipts for June.	28,070,985.00
Total receipts for fiscal year ending June 30, 1887.	371,380,894.00

Made up as follows:

Customs.	21,463,983.00
Internal revenue.	119,348,000.00
Miscellaneous.	34,840,468.00

Napoleon after the Battle of Waterloo.

From Scribner's Magazine.

Whether any course was open to Napoleon after the disaster of Waterloo, other than that which he adopted, a second abdication is certainly very doubtful. Had he taken the precaution to dissolve the chambers before setting out on his campaign, he probably could have rallied the nation and protracted the struggle. But the chambers were unfriendly; any parliamentary body is naturally unfriendly to a military despotism, and at that juncture, nothing less than a military despotism could possibly have saved France from the calamity of the restoration of the Bourbons by foreign bayonets. Hence, unless Napoleon should execute a new coup d'etat, there was nothing for him but abdication.

On the 15th of July, 1815, Napoleon surrendered himself on board the British man-of-war *Bellerophon*. Of his appearance, in the condition during the two months of his stay on this island, we have an interesting account in the narrative of Capt. Maitland, who commanded the ship. Maitland describes him as "a remarkably strong, well-built man, about five feet seven inches high, his limbs particularly well formed, with a fine ankle and very small foot, of which he seemed rather vain, as he always wore white on board the ship, silk stockings and shoes. His hands were very small, and had the plumpness of a woman's rather than the robustness of a man's. His eyes light gray, teeth good, and when he smiled the expression of his countenance was highly pleasing; when under the influence of disappointment, however, it assumed a dark gloomy cast. His hair was of a very dark brown, nearly approaching black, and though a little thin on the top and front had not gray hair among it. His complexion was a very uncommon one, being of a light, yellow color, differing from any other I ever met with. From his having become corpulent, he had lost much of his personal activity, and if we are to give credit to those who attended him, a very considerable portion of his mental energy was also gone. It is certain his habits were very lethargic while he was on board the *Bellerophon*, for, though he went to bed at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening, and did not rise until about the same hour in the morning, he frequently fell asleep on the sofa in the cabin in the course of the day. His general appearance was that of a man rather older than he was."

ANTIQUITY OF THE POTATO.—The fact that potatoes are indigenous in the Andes region of South America has been generally accepted as proof that they were not known in the Eastern continent until after Columbus discovered America. They were undoubtedly introduced into Europe from the newly discovered continent, and were a long time even after that in making their way to popular favor. But the Chinese claim to have had potatoes precisely like those now grown from time immemorial. Jesuit missionaries report the potato growing wild in the western part of China near Tartary, and it is quite probable that a plant so useful to man was indigenous in both hemispheres, and used by the people of each long centuries before either knew of the existence of the other. In some parts of China potatoes are even more than rice the main food of the poorer class of people.

State News.

THE ATLANTIC & N. C. RAILROAD.—The stockholders of the Atlantic & N. C. Railroad have re-elected all of its present officers. This is right. They have shown themselves efficient in every way and have made it a pleasure to ride over the Road. The Road is being run on business principles and is fast becoming a good property. —*Goldboro Argus.*

CHAMBER'S COURT AT CONCORD.—An important matter was heard and decided by Judge Montgomery at Chambers last night, from Polk county. Mr. Adams had purchased a tract of land for \$10,000 from Mr. Bolman, paid part and gave mortgage to secure the balance. Mr. Bolman alleging that default had been made in one of the payments, had advertised the lands for sale. Mr. Adams denies that there was any default and obtained a restraining order, and last night the restraining order was continued. M. H. Justice, Esq., of Raleigh, appeared for Adams. J. A. Forney, Esq. of the same place and Ralph Carson of Spartanburg, appeared for Bolman. The case was well prepared and argued by both sides. The argument was closed at 12 o'clock. —*Concord Times, June 30th.*

THE FIRST CASE REGARDING THE LEGALITY OF THE DRUMMERS' LICENSE TAX will come to the Supreme Court from Chowan county. A. W. Henderson of Baltimore is the defendant. He was selling without a license when Sheriff Warren arrested him.

THE TOBACCO CONVENTION.—GREENSBORO, July 2.—A primary convention of the tobaccoists of the State was held here this morning to select a time and place for holding a State Convention. Raleigh, Durham, Henderson, Reidsville, High Point and Greensboro were represented. The place chosen was Morehead City, and the time August 17th. The primary to-day was well attended and an interesting occasion is expected for the State Convention.

There are a good many people who have not listed their taxes. It has been the law that any one who failed to list before the list takers, could do so before the Register of Deeds, by paying twenty-five cents; but the law has been changed.

AN EXPERT.—Prof. G. F. Kunz, a diamond expert from New York, spent yesterday in the city. The Professor has been through the portions of our western section and has driven over two hundred miles with a horse and buggy through the counties of Ashe, McDowell, Burke, Iredell and Alleghany. He was greatly impressed with the indications through that section and has found evidence of great wealth in gem-bearing stones. He was most favorably impressed with the prospect in the Brackett and Brindleton sections and especially so with the J. A. D. Stevenson collection which he inspected at Statesville, and is loud in his praise of the work accomplished by Mr. Stevenson as being of great benefit to the State. —*Raleigh Observer.*

At the annual meeting of the Statesville and Air Line Railroad Co., the act amending its charter was accepted, and a full Directory was elected. Subsequently, Dr. J. J. Mott was elected President, C. B. Corbin, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer, and Col. W. A. Eliason Chief Engineer.

Tomatoes by the thousands will soon be rotting on the vines all over this country, and next Winter we will buy canned tomatoes at the North. Hard times, indeed! They ought to be hard and stay hard; for like the proverbial fool of old, we will learn wisdom in no other school. —*Goldboro Argus.*

OFFICE AND OFFICERS CONTINUED.—The internal revenue stamp office here will be continued by Collector Craig. The stamp office at Charlotte will be abolished. Stamp Deputy Burde, of the office, has resigned and been re-commissioned. It is a matter of great satisfaction to the people of this place and to the tax-payers of this section that in the shaking up, the stamp office here does not go by the board. —*Statesville Landmark.*

Of course Charlotte was ignored, even to the extent of a little "stamp office." That is usual.

The Revenue office, clerks and all, will be shipped to Salisbury this week. M. O. Sherrill will be Mr. Craig's cashier, and Dr. Michal will be one of the clerks. —*Newton Enterprise.*

The report comes to us from Raleigh that they are having an epidemic of typhoid fever there, and this scourge is said to be attributable to the digging up of the Streets in this city for the purpose of laying the pipes of the water works. We do not know how true the report is, but have it from what would seem to be good authority. Can it be that there are so many cases of typhoid fever there, and if there are, they are attributable to the cause given above, and if so, why did the Doctors sit still and allow the people's servants to dig up the streets when science taught that it was a dangerous undertaking. —*Goldboro Argus.*

PAISVUL ACCIDENT.—On last Thursday night about 10 o'clock, Mr. Jack Linker of No. 1 township, left Concord for his home, having just from Charlotte with his wagon and team. Just after passing Mr. David Parish's, Mr. Linker's horse became frightened and soon became unmanageable. They ran some distance, when the wagon struck a tree, throwing Mr. Linker out on his head. His arm was broken and his shoulder and breast badly bruised. Mr. Linker was lying on one legged and found himself unable to get away. He lay in the woods all night alone, and did not get medical assistance till sometime the next day. Mr. Linker is a good citizen and a hard working man, and he has the sympathy of the community in his misfortune. —*Concord Times.*

CIGARETTES INJURING THE EYES.—A great many medical men claim that the use of tobacco in its various forms is very injurious to health while others say it affects the health of men to no perceptible extent, and still an other class claim that it is actually beneficial to most consumers. The latest charge brought against the use of cigarettes is doing more injury to the eyes than anything else known. Smoking pipes or cigars is bad enough, but there is something in the paper with which the cigarette is rolled that is very injurious to the eye-sight. There are more men and boys wearing glasses now than I have ever known before, and I attribute it all to excess in tobacco smoking. Nine out of ten Germans wear spectacles. They are inveterate smokers.

History of Public Education in North Carolina.

(By Maj. S. M. Finger, Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the Raleigh Chronicle.)

Our Constitution of 1776 contained the following section:

"That a school or schools shall be established by the Legislature for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct at low prices; and all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities."

In obedience to this Constitutional privilege, the University of North Carolina was established by act of Assembly in the year 1789. This institution was opened for students in February, 1795. Except during a few years just after the close of the late war, it has been since 1795 in successful operation; and from it have gone forth, from time to time, men who have adorned almost every station within the gift of the American people. Its influence has gone down among the people, and it has been a power in their education.

It now has an endowment by the State, and all the appointments of a University in fact, in which the youth of the State and of other States may be instructed in all the branches of useful learning, and it has worthy head to the common schools of the State.

In the year 1825, the General Assembly set apart for common schools a fund "consisting of the dividends arising from the stocks then held or afterwards acquired by the State, in the Banks of Newbern and Cape Fear, the dividends arising from the stocks owned by the State in the Cape Fear Navigation Company, the Roanoke Navigation Company, the Charlotte and Harlowe's Creek Canal Company, the tax imposed by law on license to retailers of spirituous liquors and auctioneers, the unexpended balance of the agricultural fund, all moneys paid to the State for entries of vacant lands, and all the vacant and unappropriated swamp lands of the State, together with such sums of money as the Legislature may hereafter find it convenient to appropriate from time to time." From those sources it might seem that a large fund would soon have been accumulated, but the generosity of the State as shown by Act of Assembly at Fayetteville, 1789, cut off what, under the above recited provision, would soon have yielded a magnificent school fund. I refer to the act setting to the United States all her territory now included in the great State of Tennessee. I recite the preamble giving the reasons for the cession of this magnificent domain, and as indicative of the character of our people at that early date:

"Whereas, the United States in Congress Assembled, have repeatedly and earnestly recommended to the respective States, who are claiming western territory to make cession of part of the same as a further means, as well of settling the boundary line between the United States and the British Empire, as of establishing the harmony of the United States and the inhabitants of the said western territory being also desirous that such cession should be made in such a manner as to be of mutual benefit to the United States and the said western territory, and that they have heretofore received. Now, this State being ever desirous of doing ample justice to the public creditors, as well as establishing the harmony of the United States and complying with the reasonable desires of her citizens. Be it enacted, &c."

The act goes on to recite the manner of making the deed, and various conditions of the grant, among which is this: "Provided always, that no regulations made or to be made by Congress, shall tend to emancipate slaves."

The deed was made in February, 1790, for the reason stated in the preamble above recited, and the grant was accepted by Congress on the 2d day of April of that year. Thus it was that North Carolina parted with the valuable domain, because Congress requested it to be done as a means of paying the public debt, which had been incurred by the thirteen original States in their common struggle for independence. Thus it was that North Carolina surrendered what would have yielded her a magnificent school fund, under such legislation that of 1825, above recited. This action on the part of North Carolina was in marked contrast with the action of Connecticut in reference to her public lands, and the public lands to the payment of the common debt of the country, held her "western reserve" for her own uses and from it laid the foundation of her school fund.

From the funds appropriated by the Act of 1825, and from the distribution of land into districts, separate for the two races, in each of which a school is annually provided. These districts are irregular in size, but not many of them contain an area of more than four miles square, and many are much smaller, so that, except in the very sparsely populated sections of the State, there is annually a school in easy reach of every child. The General Assembly now levies a tax of twelve and one-half cents on every \$100 of property, and 37 1/2 cents on each poll for schools; and at least 75 per cent of all other poll taxes, whether levied in the Revenue Law or by the county commissioners, must be appropriated for schools. All these moneys, so appropriately collected by the Sheriffs of the respective counties, and by them turned over to the county school officers. If the fund accumulated in each county is not sufficient to maintain schools for a period of four months, the statute requires the county commissioners, in accordance with the provision of the Constitution above cited, to levy a special tax for that purpose. Our Supreme Court has recently decided in the case of *Barksdale vs. Commissioners of Sampson county*, that this requirement is constitutional only within the limits of 66 2/3 cents on property and \$2 on the poll, but that special taxes for special purposes under special acts of Assembly are not to be included. Last year the whole amount raised for public schools was \$671,000.

The system is executed by a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education composed of the Governor and all the other State officers.

Many of our cities and larger towns, under special acts of assembly, have excellent graded schools supported by voluntary taxation, but the people groan under the burden of taxation which is, in many cases, said to be too grievous to be borne.

Thus it will be seen that the State has a uniform and well appointed system, but in our condition of poverty, it could but be expected that the support of the schools for even four months would be burdensome when all the funds must be raised by direct taxation. Then, too, the salaries must necessarily be small, and inadequate to secure such talent as is desirable, and induce teachers to make teaching a profession. Right here is the weak point in our public school matters—the want of sufficient funds.

The State has done well in the revival of her public schools, and she will continue to struggle on carrying her burden.

The following provisions, adopted since the war:

"The General Assembly shall levy a capitation tax on every male inhabitant in the State, over twenty-one and under fifty years of age, which shall be equal on each to the tax on property value at three hundred dollars in cash."

"The proceeds of the State and county capitation tax shall be applied to the purposes of education; also the net proceeds of all sales of swamp lands belonging to the State, and other grants, gifts or devises that have been or hereafter may be made to the State, and not otherwise appropriated for that purpose, shall be paid into the State Treasury; and together with so much of the ordinary revenue of the State as may be by law set apart for that purpose, shall be faithfully appropriated for establishing and maintaining in this State a system of free public schools, and for no other uses or purposes."

"The proceeds of all lands that have been or hereafter may be granted by the United States, for swamp, and not otherwise appropriated by this State or by the United States, also all moneys, stocks, bonds and other property, now belonging to any State fund for purposes of education; also the net proceeds of all sales of swamp lands belonging to the State, and other grants, gifts or devises that have been or hereafter may be made to the State, and not otherwise appropriated for that purpose, shall be paid into the State Treasury; and together with so much of the ordinary revenue of the State as may be by law set apart for that purpose, shall be faithfully appropriated for establishing and maintaining in this State a system of free public schools, and for no other uses or purposes."

It is also provided in the Constitution, that the net proceeds of all penalties and forfeitures, and of all fines collected in this State or by the United States, also all moneys, stocks, bonds and other property, now belonging to any State fund for purposes of education; also the net proceeds of all sales of swamp lands belonging to the State, and other grants, gifts or devises that have been or hereafter may be made to the State, and not otherwise appropriated for that purpose, shall be paid into the State Treasury; and together with so much of the ordinary revenue of the State as may be by law set apart for that purpose, shall be faithfully appropriated for establishing and maintaining in this State a system of free public schools, and for no other uses or purposes."

The above provisions of the Constitution are the basis upon which our present school system rests. So far very little money has been received from any source to support the schools, except from the capitation and poll. While the State Board of Education owns a large area of swamp lands—perhaps near a million acres—all efforts so far to make them available for school purposes have resulted in disappointment, although before the war near two hundred thousand dollars was spent in an attempt to drain them. I do not think that any considerable sum will ever be realized from them, certainly not such sums as will be of much importance in the education of our people.

It will therefore be seen that what has been done since the war, and what may hereafter be done for public education, has depended and must hereafter depend upon funds raised and to be raised by ordinary taxation on property and polls.

Let us see what has been done:

1. A chair has recently been endowed at the University for instruction in the Art of Teaching, from which good results are expected in the line of competent teachers for the public schools.
2. We now have eight Normal schools for the whites and five for the negroes. Those for the whites are rather in the nature of institutes, and are held annually at convenient points in the State, for a period of one month. Many of the ablest teachers of the State have manifested a laudable spirit in giving instruction in these schools. The attendance is large, of persons eager to be instructed in the advanced methods of teaching and school management. \$4,000 per annum is appropriated for these Normals for the whites. The five colored Normals are regularly in session eight or nine months per annum. A few are under the management of Boards of Directors composed of white men, who employ the best colored instructors to be had, and otherwise superintend the schools. These schools annually supply a large number of teachers for the colored people, and have an annual appropriation of eight thousand dollars.

Our statutes provide for county Institutes for both races, and many of the counties hold them for one or two weeks, and they are productive of much good. The normal schools and county Institutes have had a very fine effect in elevating the standard of common school teachers; yet a great deal remains to be done in this direction.

Each county now has a separate Board of Education and a Superintendent, and these officers are charged with the management of the funds and the schools of their respective counties, and are required to equalize school facilities, as far as may be practicable and just, to all the children, without discrimination as to race.

All the counties have been divided into districts, separate for the two races, in each of which a school is annually provided. These districts are irregular in size, but not many of them contain an area of more than four miles square, and many are much smaller, so that, except in the very sparsely populated sections of the State, there is annually a school in easy reach of every child.

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Our statutes provide for county Institutes for both races, and many of the counties hold them for one or two weeks, and they are productive of much good. The normal schools and county Institutes have had a very fine effect in elevating the standard of common school teachers; yet a great deal remains to be done in this direction.

Each county now has a separate Board of Education and a Superintendent, and these officers are charged with the management of the funds and the schools of their respective counties, and are required to equalize school facilities, as far as may be practicable and just, to all the children, without discrimination as to race.

All the counties have been divided into districts, separate for the two races, in each of which a school is annually provided. These districts are irregular in size, but not many of them contain an area of more than four miles square, and many are much smaller, so that, except in the very sparsely populated sections of the State, there is annually a school in easy reach of every child.

The General Assembly now levies a tax of twelve and one-half cents on every \$100 of property, and 37 1/2 cents on each poll for schools; and at least 75 per cent of all other poll taxes, whether levied in the Revenue Law or by the county commissioners, must be appropriated for schools. All these moneys, so appropriately collected by the Sheriffs of the respective counties, and by them turned over to the county school officers. If the fund accumulated in each county is not sufficient to maintain schools for a period of four months, the statute requires the county commissioners, in accordance with the provision of the Constitution above cited, to levy a special tax for that purpose. Our Supreme Court has recently decided in the case of *Barksdale vs. Commissioners of Sampson county*, that this requirement is constitutional only within the limits of 66 2/3 cents on property and \$2 on the poll, but that special taxes for special purposes under special acts of Assembly are not to be included. Last year the whole amount raised for public schools was \$671,000.

earnestly looking forward to the time when the Congress of the United States will open the doors of the Treasury and extend aid. North Carolina and other Southern States gave to the United States vast domains which were used to pay a common debt, a debt of the original thirteen States, and in the course of events it turns out that the United States treat the slaves of the South and makes them citizens and voters, while in a condition of extreme ignorance. Twenty-two years have elapsed since the close of the war; almost another generation has been reared up since the South laid down her arms; it is too late to look back now and engage in reclamation and reformation; it is solely time for the United States to lend a helping hand to the South in carrying her burden. * * *

Perhaps this is not the proper time to discuss the principles which underlay the recent conflict of arms. Secession and coercion should now be referred to only so far as it may be necessary to do so to guide us as to the duty of the present. History will eventually be written which will enable posterity to make up its verdict upon the Great Constitutional question involved in this greatest of all conflicts in all the history of the world. Almost all sincere, intelligent men, the world over, who have investigated the question, admit that as long as the framers of the Constitution of 1787 lived, the right of a State to withdraw from the Union was a prominent feature in our political life. To say the least of it, it was a question about which great and good men could and did differ; and saying this about secession is only tantamount to saying that great and good men could and did differ about the right of coercion under our Constitution.